

ER 8-5400

9 AUG 1956

The Honorable James E. Murray
 Chairman
 Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
 United States Senate
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Murray:

Further information on titanium activity in the Soviet Bloc has come to our notice since Mr. Dulles' letter of 3 March 1956.

According to a press article in Pravoglassno-Chemicheskaya Gazzeta (Industrial-Economic Gazette) dated 1 July 1956, titanium electrodes up to 60 millimeters in diameter are in use in the USSR. Our industry uses electrodes about twice this size. We are rolling ingots of titanium of one-tonne tons. We believe that the Soviets have only recently been able to roll one-half to one ton ingots.

Since our first letter on this subject, we have convened a second Government-wide conference on Soviet titanium developments. The conclusions of this conference were as follows:

- a. The Soviet titanium industry as of June 1956 may have reached small-scale commercial production.
- b. Information available to date is too fragmentary to base a quantitative estimate of titanium production in the USSR.
- c. Evidence of Soviet utilization of titanium metal and alloys in aircraft or for other applications is lacking except for experimental work. Of course, ferro-titanium is used in steel manufacture.

We have found a reference to titanium technology in the East German literature which will be of interest to you. In the Zeitschrift Chemie-Ingenieur-Technik, No. 4, 1956, reference is made to experiments "on a technical scale" for production of titanium sponge by a modified Kroll process (reduction takes place in steam instead of in a noble gas atmosphere) at the Bitterfeld plant of V.E.B. Electrochemisches Kombinat. This plant is well-suited for the experiments in the light of its extensive experience in the production of magnesium.

Congress

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I shall continue to keep you informed of new developments as they become available to us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Norman S. Paul

Norman S. Paul
Legislative Counsel

PWH

ODDI: [redacted] Jb
(8 August 1956)

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